

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 EUR-25 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01

RSR-01 /154 W

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R 251600Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2304

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANAGUA 3544

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SUMMARY - AUGUST 10-24 1973

REF: MANAGUA 3376

1. POLITICAL ACTIVITY -- THE PAGUAGA CONSERVATIVES ARE BUSILY ERECTING A NATIONWIDE STRUCTURE FOR THEIR PARTY (PCN-P). DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER THEY WILL CONDUCT MEETINGS TO ELECT PARTY OFFICERS AT THE MUNICIPAL AND DEPARTMENTAL LEVEL AND SELECT NEW NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES. THIS RESTRUCTURING IS NECESSARY SINCE MANY AGUERO (PCN-A) LOYALISTS STILL OCCUPY THESE PARTY POSITIONS. THE AGUERO FACTION CONTINUES TO BE VERY ACTIVE WITH RALLIES SCHEDULED FOR GRANADA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND LEON IN OCTOBER. THE LIBERALS (PLN) ARE ALSO ACTIVE. TOOLING UP FOR THE 1974 ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN THE PRO-SOMOZA LIBERAL UNION (ULPS) RECENTLY HELD A
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NATIONAL MEETING AND ELECTED LUIS SOMOZA URCUYO, SON OF

LUIS SOMOZA DEBAYLE, ITS NEW PRESIDENT. THE DIRECTORATE OF THE SOMOZA LIBERAL YOUTH (JLS) MET AUGUST 11 TO PLAN FOR A SEPTEMBER 1 NATIONAL CONVENTION. ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE PROVISIONAL DEPARTMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL SALVATION, A LEON ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE CHAMORRO-SACASA SUMMONS (MANAGUA A-37), CAPPED A SERIES OF WEEKLY MEETINGS BY ISSUING AUGUST 14 A DECLARATION OF GENERALLY AGREED PRINCIPALS. THE GROUP PLEDGED ITSELF TO FIGHT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PROBITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE, EQUITABLE TAXATION, HONESTLY ADMINISTERED JUSTICE, RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AN APOLITICAL ARMY AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL PROTECTION FOR THE LESS FAVORED CLASSES.

2. CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNIST WORLD -- A. FIVE PING PONG PLAYERS, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL CHAMPION, DEPARTED NICARAGUA AUGUST 16 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PEKING HOSTED FIRST WORLD PING PONG CHAMPIONSHIP. PRIOR TO LEAVING THE GROUP WAS RECEIVED BY GENERAL SOMOZA WHO WISHED THEM WELL AND PRESENTED THEM WITH THEIR TICKETS AND EXPENSE MONEY, APPARENTLY PROVIDED BY THE GON. GENERAL SOMOZA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE NICARAGUANS WERE RECRUITED BY A GROUP FROM MEXICO THAT WAS ORGANIZING REGIONAL TEAMS FOR THE MATCHES. SOMOZA SAID HE CHECKED OUT THE NICARAGUAN PLAYERS AND THE MEXICAN PROMOTERS AND FOUND THEM TO BE LEGITIMATE SO HE HAD AGREED TO THE PEKING TRIP.

B. WHILE TOURIST TRAVEL TO THE SOVIET UNION MAY BE ROUTINE IN MANY COUNTRIES, IT IS VIRTUALLY UNHEARD OF IN NICARAGUA. ACCORDINGLY, RECENT TOURIST EXCURSION TRIPS BY SEVERAL GROUPS OF PROMINENT NICARAGUANS ARE BEING WIDELY PUBLICIZED. AMONG THE NICARAGUAN NOTABLES CURRENTLY TOURING THE USSR ARE ALFONSO ROBELO, PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES, AND SILVIO ARGUELLO CARDENAL, A FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND CURRENT MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

3. LABOR SITUATION -- WORKER STRIKES AT METASA AND FABRITEX APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN UNDERCUT BY MANAGEMENT. IT NOW APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT METESA WILL GET RID

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OF THE STRIKING UNION LEADERSHIP THROUGH LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THEM FOR VIOLATING THEIR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT. FABRITEX HAS ALSO TAKEN ITS CASE TO THE COURTS AND MEANWHILE IS HIRING A NEW WORK FORCE TO REPLACE ALL EMPLOYEES OUT ON STRIKE. DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 18-24 MANAGUANS HAVE NERVOUSLY WATCHED THE BUS DRIVERS' NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES. A MUCH CONCERNED LABOR MINISTRY IS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN

THESE LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISCUSSIONS IN HOPES OF AVERTING
A POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STRIKE WHICH
COULD PARALYZE THE CITY. AT PRESENT PROSPECTS ARE GOOD
THAT A SETTLEMENT WILL BE REACHED. ON AUGUST 21, THE
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TEACHERS' GROUP (NOT YET LEGALLY RECOGNIZED
AS A CONFEDERATION) PRESENTED A PETITION TO THE MINISTER
OF EDUCATION REQUESTING A 60 PERCENT RAISE AND PAYMENT OF
THE 13TH MONTH BONUS (AGUINALDO). THEY WILL REPORTEDLY BE
SATISFIED WITH A 20 PERCENT INCREASE. THE MINISTER HAS ASKED FOR
TEN DAYS BEFORE RESPONDING TO THE PETITION.
SHELTON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANAGUA 3544

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4. LA PRENSA PROTESTS MALTREATMENT OF GUARD PRIVATES --
MAKING AN EXCEEDINGLY RARE TRESPASS INTO "FORBIDDEN
TERRITORY", OPPOSITION LA PRENSA AUGUST 22 PUBLICIZED
ALLEGED MISTREATMENT OF NATIONAL GUARD PRIVATES BY A GUARD
OFFICER. THE CHARGES APPEARED IN A PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO
EDITORIAL WHICH REPORTED THAT LA PRENSA HAD RECEIVED

NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM GUARDSMEN AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING FOUR LETTERS, WHICH DESCRIBED PHYSICAL ABUSE, TORTURE, AND THE SEVERE BEATING OF ONE SOLDIER, BY THE COMMANDER OF THE ENGINEER BATTALION (I.E., LT COLONEL IVAN "PETE" ALEGRETT). CAREFULLY NOTING THAT IT WAS NOT ACCUSING BUT MERELY PUBLICIZING, LA PRENSA CALLED FOR AN EXHAUSTIVE AND COMPLETE INVESTIGATION. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH THE FOLLOWING PLEA "WE HOPE THAT THE CORRESPONDING MILITARY AUTHORITY WILL TAKE THIS COMPLAINT SERIOUSLY AND UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE TREADING ON SUCH DIFFICULT TERRAIN ONLY BECAUSE OF THE QUANTITY OF DATA
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PRESENTED IN THE DENOUNCING STATEMENTS, WHICH ARE NOT SIGNED BY THE INJURED PARTIES BECAUSE OF THEIR MILITARY STATUS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH THE FAMILIES OF SOME OF THEM AND THEIR SINCERITY IN MAKING THE CHARGES HAS MOVED US TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLISHING THEM."

COMMENT: DEFENSE ATTACHE CONFIRMS THAT WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS ALEGRETT, WHO IS NOTED FOR HIS VIOLENT TEMPER, DID SEVERELY BEAT AN ENLISTED MAN WHO HAS WRECKED A VEHICLE. THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS THAT SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ALEGRETT SHOT ANOTHER ENLISTED MEMBER OF HIS UNIT WHILE IN A FIT OF RAGE. END COMMENT.

5. BRIEFS --

A. GENERAL WILLIAM B ROSSON, USCINCSO, VISITED NICARAGUA AUGUST 14-16 TO CONSULT WITH SUG AND GON OFFICIALS AND VIEW NATIONAL GUARD ACTIVITIES.

B. GENERAL ANASTASIO SOMOZA DEBAYLE, SUPREME CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, WILL ATTEND THE CHIEFS OF AMERICAN ARMIES CONFERENCE AT CARACAS, VENEZUELA, SEPTEMBER 3.

C. LILLIAN SEVILLA SOMOZA, DAUGHTER OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS SEVILLA SACASA, WILL MARRY HER HALF FIRST COUSIN LUIS SOMOZA ABREGO, SON OF GENERAL AND MRS JOSE R SOMOZA IN A CEREMONY IN WASHINGTON, DC, AUGUST 26.
SHELTON

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